

2019	Local Oscillator	April
	<h1>Local Oscillator</h1>	
Mesilla Valley Radio Club		

This is a pdf file. It will print easily. A free pdf file reader is at <http://www.adobe.com>

Current Events			Table of Contents
Date	Event	Time	Bataan Death March NMQSO Party Coming Events For Sale
Sat	Informal at Cracker Barrel	6:00 AM	
M, W, F	Informal Wal-Mart (West)	10:00 AM	
Wed	MVRC Net 146.64	6:45 PM	
Tue	Informal Breakfast	Denny's 3901 Bataan Memorial West	
April 4	Board Meeting Club House	7 PM	
April 6	Meeting Club House	8 AM	
April 6	Program Club House	8:45 AM	
April 2	Builder's Group Club House	7PM	
April 9	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
April 16	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
April 23	Builders Group Club House	7 PM	
April 13	NM QSO Party	Club House	
For more events see http://www.n5bl.org/calendar			



More information at <http://swantenna.com>



KD5OHA with Bataan Memorial Plaque

The Articles for This Month

Bataan Memorial Death March

The photo shows KD5OHA with the plaque that the club received for helping with the Bataan Memorial Death march marathon. KD5OHA is the club member who organizes the club's participation and serves as our representative for the work which goes into the organization of this large event. This year the club did more than just man water station and serve as communication back up. Part of the event communication link malfunctioned and the hams really served to plug the communication hole.

The following pages provided by KD 5OHA tell a bit about the race itself and the part played by MVRC members.

Bataan Memorial Death March — 2019

In 1989, Army ROTC cadets from New Mexico State University started an event known as the Bataan Memorial Death March to honor the Bataan veterans from WWII. They had 134 participants in that first march. The connection to New Mexico is the 200th Coast Artillery, which was one of the units forced to march in Bataan by the Japanese and grew out of militia units from New Mexico.

The Bataan Death March is estimated to be 60-70 miles long. The Memorial March is a regulation marathon distance — 26.2

a 3% average grade, and, at around mile 21 when you start hitting a brick wall, there's the 1.5 mile long Sand Pit. Sometimes participants have to deal with dust storms, too! The difficulty of the course is designed to, at least in a small way, pay respect to the difficulty of the real Bataan Death March.

And did I mention some of us choose to do this with 35lbs on our back? The Memorial March has two other basic divisions, Light and Heavy. In Light, you do whatever you want — run, walk, carry a pack or don't carry a pack. In Heavy, you must



miles — with an Honorary March that is roughly 14.5 miles. A few years after the first Memorial March in 1989, the event was moved to White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). At about the same time, the Mesilla Valley Radio Club began providing amateur radio services to the event. More on this later.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is unlike any other event I've been involved with either as a participant or as a volunteer. The event is first and foremost a memorial to the veterans of Bataan from the opening ceremonies to the difficulty of the course.

The opening ceremonies typically involve a roll call of Bataan veterans, first the survivors present then those who have passed in the previous year. One Bataan veteran has even walked part of the course since anyone can remember. Another way they honor the Bataan veterans is to offer a Team Division in addition to Individual. Teams consist of five members, and you have to march together and finish together just like any military unit would.

Of course, the Bataan Memorial Death March is also an athletic competition. The course is one of the most challenging I know of. While a regulation marathon course, that's where similarities to other marathons end — the altitude ranges from 4,300ft to 5,400ft, most of the March is in the desert off road, there's a 5-mile hill (Mineral Hill) you have to climb with

have at least 35lbs dry in a pack at the end of the course. Because it's a desert and the mileage is quite high, I always pack plenty of water and a little food even though water is provided along the course. It isn't uncommon for packs to weigh in at 45lbs or more at the start of the course! By the way, 35lbs is the typical weight for rucking events and derives from the Army's Air Assault standard — 12 miles in 3 hrs with 35lbs.

Now onto how amateur radio supports the event.

The Mesilla Valley Radio Club of Las Cruces, NM, provides the amateur radio support. They provide at least two hams at each of the 12 or so water and first aid check points primarily working logistics but can also relay emergency traffic. They also provide two hams at the EOC, two in Security, and one to follow the event Director. Like any amateur radio supported event, they tell me they never have enough hams out there and could always use more. Any one up for doing your Spring Break next year out in New Mexico? March 15, 2020, is the date!

Did you know that about 20-25% of participants call it quits during the event and have to be driven off the course, and that all has to be coordinated? A typical marathon only has a 2% do-not-finish rate. With the last two years having over 8,000 participants, this means that you have to find a way to

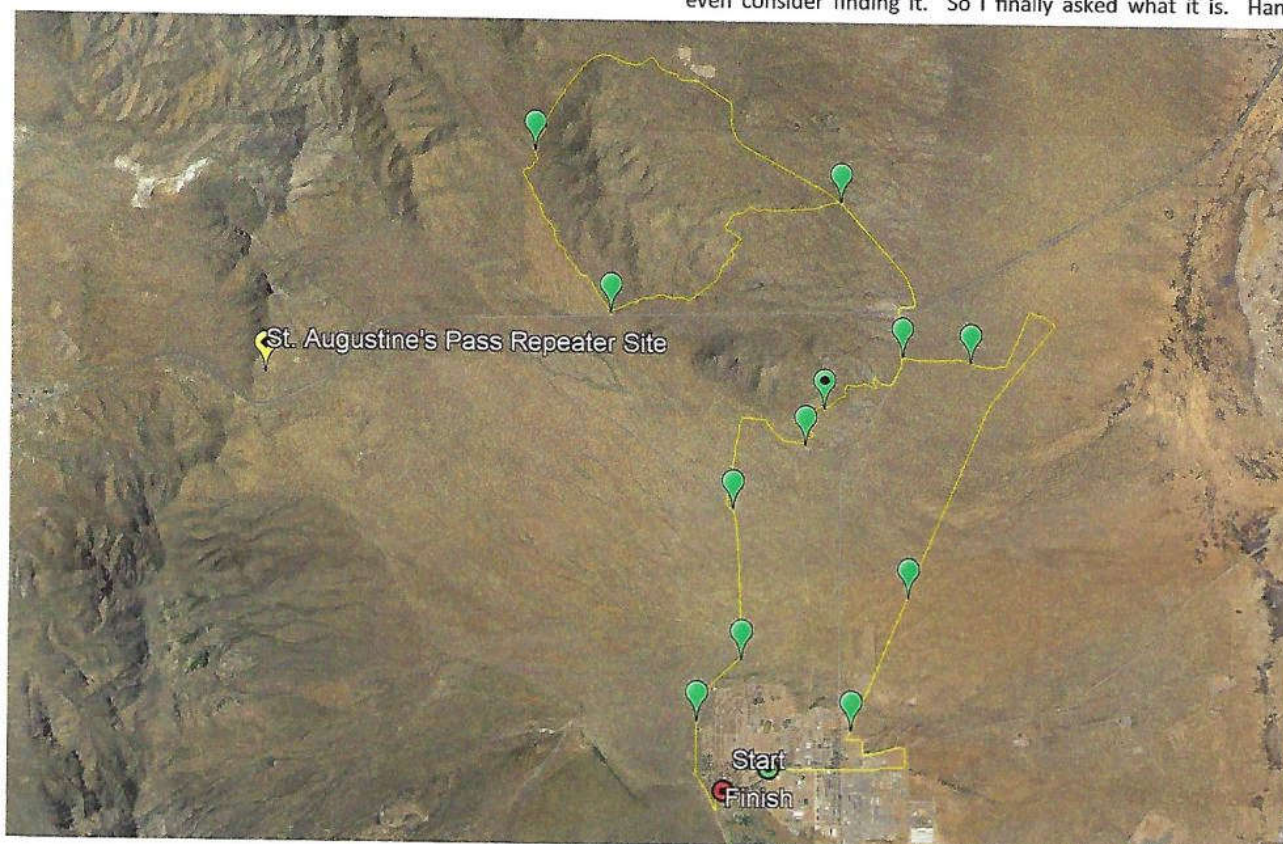
(continued from page 3)

get 1,600-2,000 drop outs off the course in the desert!

Amazingly, they can do what they need to do primarily on simplex. The wide open spaces and lack of trees help. But the course does provide its simplex challenges. Mile 9-20 is basically either going up, around, or down Mineral Hill. Mineral Hill provides a 3% grade and line-of-sight blockages re-

don't tie up the repeater. By the way, there's nothing on the WSMR side of St. Augustine Pass until you get to Holloman AFB on the other side of the range. So that one local repeater is basically it at least on the east side of pass (Las Cruces is on the west side).

One of the MVRC hams kept mentioning Ham Camp and that I should try to stop by. Well, I was too beat up by the end to even consider finding it. So I finally asked what it is. Ham



quiring antennas to be on a mast. Around Mile 22 in the Sand Pit, the course runs through what I would describe as a wash or eroded area. In any case, you're surrounded by desert that's higher than you. Between some stations, simplex relays are required.

But MVRC does have a repeater available to them that's situated in the St. Augustine Pass. The pass sits between Las Cruces and WSMR at a relatively high elevation. Also in the pass is a repeater linked to a state-wide network. I never got a response — I'm not sure I even asked — why they use simplex instead of the repeater. But simplex works and they

Camp at Bataan is an alternate position for support of the water stations and EOC. It also allows hams to get onto the base on the day before and stay over without having to get up at 0200 to fight with the rest of the traffic trying to get onto WSMR Sunday morning. And the event traffic is brutal coming from Las Cruces. The El Paso gate isn't so bad. Finally, they try to run an event station, K5B, from Ham Camp. This year, 40m and 20m with both voice and digital was tried, but no contacts were made! The long term goal is to also use Ham Camp to provide information and technical demonstrations on amateur radio.

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NMQSO Party

The MNQSO Party will be held this year on April 13. This party is arranged so that the world tries to work ham in the various counties in New Mexico, Last year the club won first place in the multipoperator class. We would like to repeat this year. That means that even one contact (with N5BL or anyone else) will help the club out. WA5DJJ is working hard to organize us. Here is what he said on the reflector.

“I am getting ready to setup for the NEW MEXICO QSO Party on Saturday April 13th. The Contest period is from 08:00 through 20:00 Local time. I am planning to setup my ICOM 756PROII in the meeting room and use both the beam and the dipole on that station. I will need Operators and Loggers for the total 12 Hour period which comes out to be about 12 to 14 people to work about 2 hours each. We will be using a QSO Party Logging Program so the Scoring will be easy at the end of the contest. (it is the only way to fly) If you plan to operate from home set your station up in a similar way and club members scores add to the Club multi operator Score as well as put you into the contest as a single operator. So N5BL makes out both ways. I have heard some already talking about working the NEW MEXICO QSO PARTY. If you’re going to help operate the club station N5BL let me know when you what to come and I will reserve that time for your operation. We had multiple operators last year and I am hoping to get more involved this year. If you have never done this before, come and log for a bit and then jump in and get your feet wet operating. I am always willing to help Amateurs new to Contest type operation learn the “ropes”. My ICOM 756PROIII is an excellent radio to contest with because it has a voice contest mode and it does most of the calling and answering for you. It also uses a boom mike/headset and a foot switch. It takes a little time to get used to but after you learn, it you will like the way it works. “

In this contest every contact counts no matter how few. So plan to get on the air (2 meters and up do not count). Contact WA5DJJ on the reflector with any questions.

Coming months

The next page list some of the club activites in the next several months. Take part, have fun

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April 13—NMQSO Party

May 4—Bean Feed

May - TBA antenna testing for Field Day. Tentative

June 22 to 23 Field Day

Transceiver For Sale

I have an Elecraft K-Line transceiver--KX-3 with matching PX-3 panadapter in first rate condition. I am getting ready to list these for sale on the Elecraft Owners Forum. With accessories and add-ons it would sell new for over \$2200. I intend to list it for \$1100.

An interested buyer can examine it first hand, save shipping costs and make the purchase face to face.

Charles "David" Baron davbarbar@comcast.net

2039 Cotton Avenue

Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-522-5143

Club Roster

There is a new club roster on the web site at n5bl.org

JOIN THE MESILLA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

Name(s) _____

EMAIL _____

If you want confirmation that your payment was received and processed, please include your email address

Street Address _____ PO Box# _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

To join the Mesilla Valley Radio Club or renew your membership, please complete this form and print or cut out. Send it to **"Treasurer, MVRC, PO Box 1443, Las Cruces, NM 88004"** with annual dues (\$35 single, \$45 family)

Date: _____ Method of payment: Check No. _____ Other _____

Call Sign(S) _____ Family Membership Yes _____ No _____

License Class (E, A, G, T, N) _____ ARRL Member? (Y/N) _____

Are You a ARRL Volunteer Examiner (Y/N) _____

Would you like to be added to the MVRC reflector (email information system)? _____

Interests

Computer _____ Contests _____ Digital _____ Elmer _____ Emergency Communications _____

Field Day _____ Packet _____ Programs _____ Public Service _____ Publicity _____ RFI _____

Repeater _____ Social _____ License Classes _____ Teach Licensing Classes _____

Volunteer Examiner _____ QRSS _____ Other _____

Comments